

REMARKS

A. 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

1. Claims 17 and 22

In the Office Action of September 5, 2003, claims 17 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Feichtinger et al. Applicant traverses this rejection. Independent claim 17 recites that the stator includes a contact face that extends transversely with respect to the axis of rotation and engages the contact face of the coupler so that a clamping force is generated so as to fasten the stator to the coupler. The Office Action has identified a contact face A that allegedly anticipates the recited contact face of the stator. However, the contact face A does not generate a clamping force so as to fasten the stator to the coupler. Instead, contact face A merely makes contact with the spring arms 13-16 and does not generate a clamping force for fastening between the stator and coupler. Since Feichtinger et al. does not disclose all of the recited elements of claim 17, claim 17 and its dependent claim 22 are not anticipated by Feichtinger et al.

Despite the improperness of the rejection, claim 17 has been amended to clarify that the recited contact face of the stator “clampingly” engages the contact face of the coupler. Since contact face A of Feichtinger et al. does not provide the recited clamping engagement, the rejection should be withdrawn. Note that it is not believed that the amendment of claim 17 changes the previous meaning or scope of claim 17 since the

amended language is believed to be inherently present in claim 17. Accordingly, the present amendment of claim 17 is not being presented for reasons of patentability as defined in *Festo Corporation v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd.*, 234 F.3d 558, 56 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. 2000) (*en banc*), *overruled in part*, 535 U.S. 722, 122 S. Ct. 1831 (2002).

Besides not being anticipated by Feichtinger et al., claim 17 is not rendered obvious by Feichtinger et al. since there is no suggestion in Feichtinger et al. or the prior art to alter the device of Feichtinger et al. so that Feichtinger et al.'s contact face A clampingly engages a contact face of the coupler. Without such suggestion, claims 17 and 22 should be allowed.

The rejection of claim 22 is improper for the additional reason that Feichtinger et al. does not disclose or suggest that the clamping force is generated by axial displacement of the stator. The Office Action has asserted that the recited clamping force is generated by sliding the stator 1 into the spring arms 6 and 7. However, claim 17 recites that the clamping force is the result of the contact face of the stator clampingly engaging the contact face of the coupler. As pointed out above, the contact face A identified by the Office Action does not generate a clamping force and so there cannot be a clamping force generated by axial displacement of the stator.

2. Claim 20

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Feichtinger et al. Applicant traverses this rejection. Independent claim 20 has been amended to clarify that when a contact face of the coupler comes into contact with a contact face of the stationary object “a clamping engagement between said contact face of said coupler and said contact face of said stationary object results.” As pointed out above in Section A.1, contact between the contact face A and the spring arms 13-16 does not result in a clamping engagement between the contact face A and the spring arms. Since Feichtinger et al. does not disclose all of the recited elements of claim 20, claim 20 is not anticipated by Feichtinger et al.

Besides not being anticipated by Feichtinger et al., claim 20 is not rendered obvious by Feichtinger et al. since there is no suggestion in Feichtinger et al. or the prior art to alter the process disclosed in Feichtinger et al. so that clamping engagement between contact face A and the spring arms results. Without such suggestion, claim 20 should be allowed.

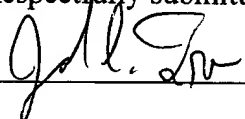
B. Claims 1-16, 18, 19 and 21

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 1-16, 18, 19 and 21 have been indicated to contain allowable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the arguments above, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims 1-22 are in condition for allowance and seeks an early allowance thereof. If for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorneys at (312) 321-4200.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Freeman", is written over a horizontal line.

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